Shoujo Sense

HC HANATOYUME COMICS 別冊花とゆめ

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Usotoki Rhetoric

1 Chapter 2

by Miyako Ritsu

Provider:hemony
Translator:Den
Proofreader:Mai
Cleaner:hemony
Typesetter:Soph
QCer:hemony

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第二話
Chapter 2

SIGN: SECONDHAND GOODS
THAT'S 80 COINS AT MOST.
古道具
買リマス
売イマス
GIVE ME THE FINAL PRICE!!
THIS IS THE BEST DEAL YOU'LL GET.
YOU WILL NEVER FIND ANOTHER STORE THAT WILL BUY IT FOR A HIGHER PRICE.
I'M NOT GOING TO OFFER ANYTHING HIGHER THAN THAT.
He's lying.

I'M NOT BUYING IT FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.
It's true.
OKAY, SOLD!!
90 COINS...
WHO ENDS UP WITH THE BETTER DEAL.
BETWEEN YOU AND ME
I'LL TAKE A CHANCE AND SEE
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SELL THIS AT ANOTHER STORE.
THE BARS IN 60TH STREET REALLY HAVE BEEN INCREASING, HUH.
MY WIFE GOT SO MAD, I HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE THIS MORNING.
I GOT FLAT OUT DRUNK ON THE 60TH STREET AND HAD MY WALLET STOLEN.
HEY, HAVEN'T YOU HAD LUNCH YET?
SFX: GROOOOWL
YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS, SOU-CHAN.
I WOULD'VE ALREADY SENT YOU AWAY IF YOU DEMANDED MORE.
First year of the Showa era.
At the town of Tsuku-moya.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
BE CARE-FUL WHEN YOU'RE THERE.
THAT AREA ISN'T VERY SAFE ANY-MORE.

WELL DONE.
WELL DONE.
HOW DO YOU HAVE SO MUCH STUFF AT YOUR HOUSE WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY?
AND WITH THIS
WE'VE ALMOST CLEARED ALL THE JUNK FROM MY PLACE.
PEOPLE GIVE ME STUFF, I RECEIVE STUFF, I GET STUFF FROM PEOPLE, I RECEIVE STUFF...
SO IN OTHER WORDS, YOU TAKE EVERYTHING YOU CAN.
When someone tells a lie,
I can hear a clanging sound in their voice.
HEY, THAT'S A LIE.
Maybe I'm just that popular.
IT'S NOT LIKE I ASK THEM FOR ANYTHING...
My ears can
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
I CAN'T ESTIMATE HOW MUCH THESE OLD THINGS ARE WORTH.
SO IT'S GREAT THAT I CAN SELL THEM AT A GOOD PRICE.

DON'T GO THERE!
SIGN: SOBA
そば
そば
LET'S HAVE SOBA FOR LUNCH.
hear lies.
Money
Money thanks to you
Is this really the job of a detective's assistant?
SIGN: SOBA
そば
HERE YOU GO!
I'LL GIVE YOU A DIS-COUNT!!
OUR FOOD IS BETTER!
It's not cheaper or better.

It's not just convenient.
THIS IS SO GOOD!!
Should I be happy about that?
I SOLD MY OLD STUFF FOR THE BEST PRICE, AND NOW WE'RE EATING GREAT FOOD.
I WAS SO RIGHT TO HIRE YOU.
SO CONVENIENT.
SO CONVENIENT.

I'm thankful that there's someone like this who doesn't mind being near me.
Kurata doesn't serve soba.
I haven't had soba in so long!
ISN'T IT?

even after knowing my ability.
"Kanoko makes me feel uneasy."
I have always been alone.
IT'S KANOKO-CHAN!
SHE CAN HEAR LIES!!
DON'T SAY THAT, I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.

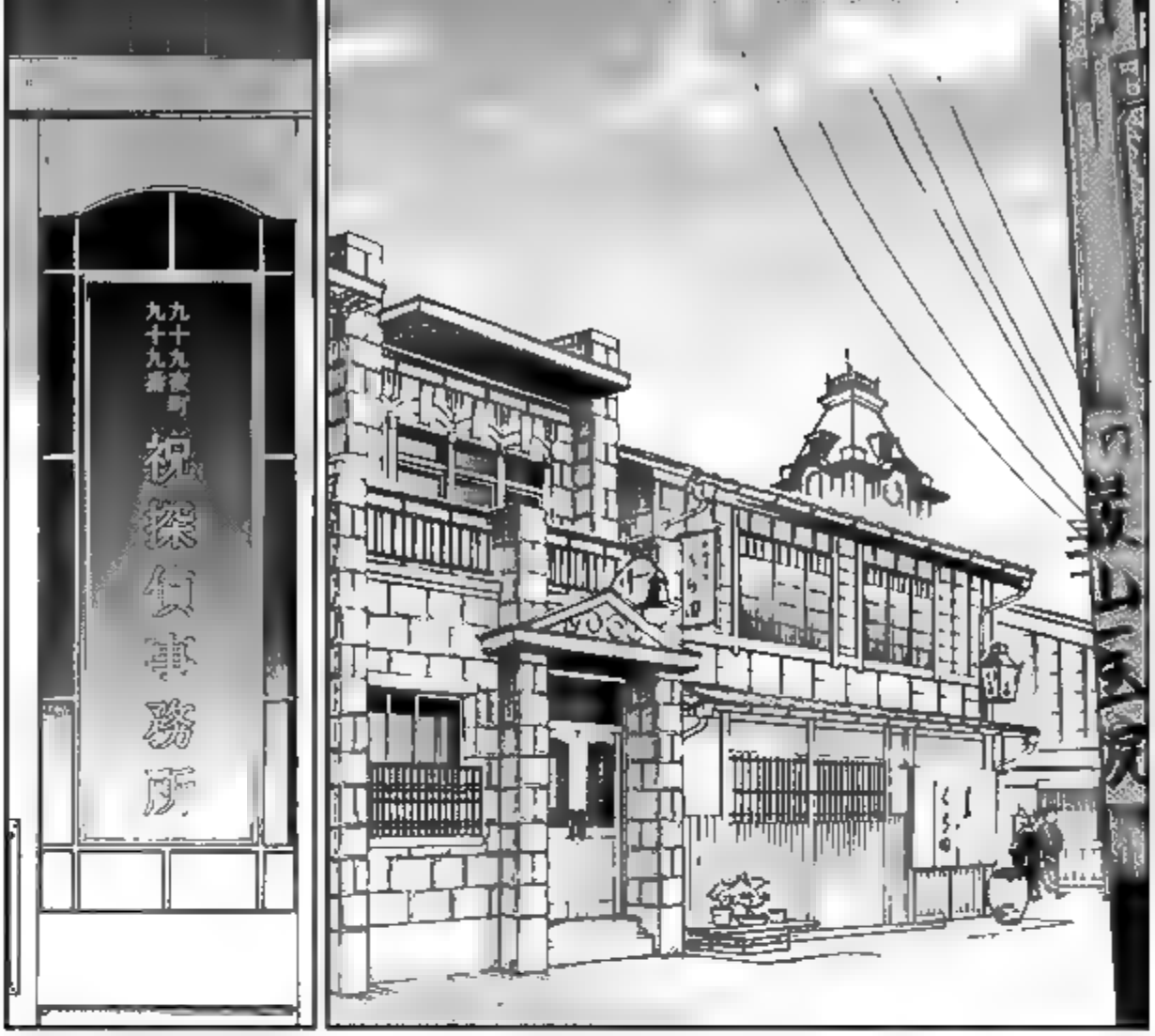
Leave town
I was ostracized.
SHE'S NOT A BAD PERSON, BUT...
So I left my birth town,
"Please work with me."
and started to work as an assistant.
"Your powers"
"can help a lot of people."
This is Iwai Souma,
a detective.
TODAY WE'RE GOING TO THAT OLD MAN AT THE TSUKUMOYAKI SHOP.
?
WHAT ARE WE DOING, DETECTIVE?
THEY HAVE BENTO OVER THERE, KANOKO.
SFX: SNEAK 2X

HIS SON'S FAMILY MAKES DUMPLINGS
OUT OF THE REMAINING FOOD FROM THE BENTO THEY SELL.
IT'S THE SPECIALTY OF THE TOWN OF TSUKUMOYA, SO THEY CALL IT TSUKUMO-YAKI.
IT'S SUPER CHEAP, GREAT FOR POOR PEOPLE.
AND SINCE THE INGRE-DIENTS DEPEND ON WHAT FOOD THEY HAVE LEFT, IT'S DIFFERENT EVERY DAY.

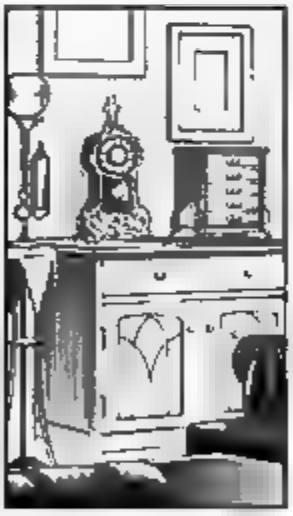
THE GRANDPA IS GOOD AT MAKING THOSE DUMPLINGS.
BUT THE GRANDMA JUST PUTS IN WHATEVER.
I still get all sweaty when I think about it.
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE TIME SHE PUT IN MACKEREL AND PERSIMMON TOGETHER. IT SMELLED LIKE SUGARY FISH ...
SO WE'RE GONNA WAIT FOR THE GRANDPA'S TURN TO MAKE THE DUMP-LINGS.
The old lady makes it once every three days.

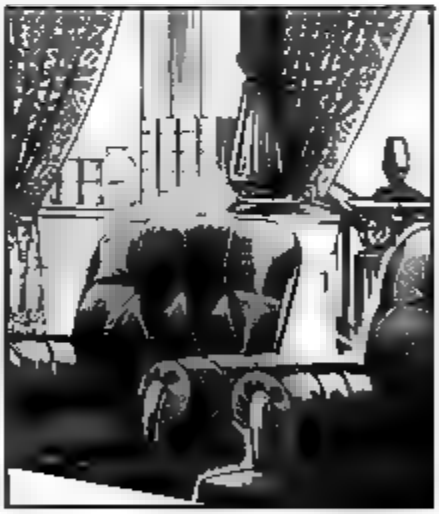
YOU'RE GOING TO BUY DUMP-LINGS? BUT WE JUST HAD LUNCH...
THE MAN AT THE SECOND-HAND SHOP HASN'T EATEN IN A WHILE.
He did help us out.
I WANT TO BUY IT FOR HIM.
ONE NORI AND 2 SOY SAUCES, PLEASE.
He's a bit strange, but,
HERE.
hot
hot

He knew the soba hadn't been enough for me...
He's a great detective.
he can read people well.
YOU'RE STILL HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
I'LL TAKE THIS TO HIM. JUST WAIT HERE.
Kinpira and taro flavor Nice
I want to help people, too.



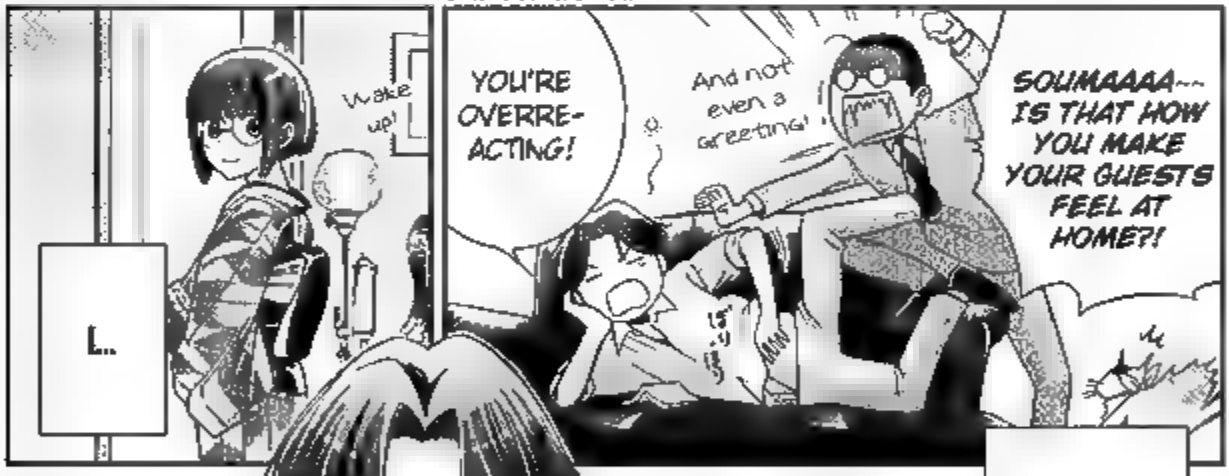
SIGN IWA INVESTIGATION FIRM



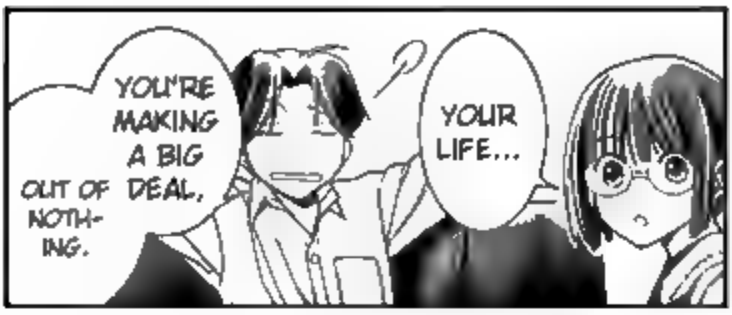


JUST WATER, KANOKO
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD BE USEFUL
Not really.
I BET IT WAS TIRING.
Hanasaki-san has been friends with Iwai-san since they were young.
I'M GOING TO PREPARE SOME TEA.

SFX SCRATCH ZX



AN ARTICLE FROM A MAGAZINE
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE SOUMA
THAT WAITRESS AT THE BACK
MISS MATSUBA BOTAN?
IS THIS MISS MATSUBA BOTAN?


YOU'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL, OUT OF NOTHING.
YOUR LIFE...

SO LAST MONTH, MY LANDLORD ASKED US TO TRIM THE GRASS.
THEN THIS GUY HAD AN UPSET STOMACH.
THAT'S RIGHT!
?
OUT OF NOTHING?! I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!!

THE WOMAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE

IS THIS DAIKON? MAYBE LEAF MUSTARD
CAUSE IT WAS THE GRANNY WHO MADE IT
IT'S A BIT SOUR.
THAT WAS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU AND THAT TSUKU-MOYAKI YOU GAVE ME!!

It's not daikon either

Hmm maybe not leaf mustard

THIS WAS FROM THREE DAYS AGO
IT WAS THE GRANDPA WHO WAS SELLING THE TSUKUMOYAKI TODAY
BUT

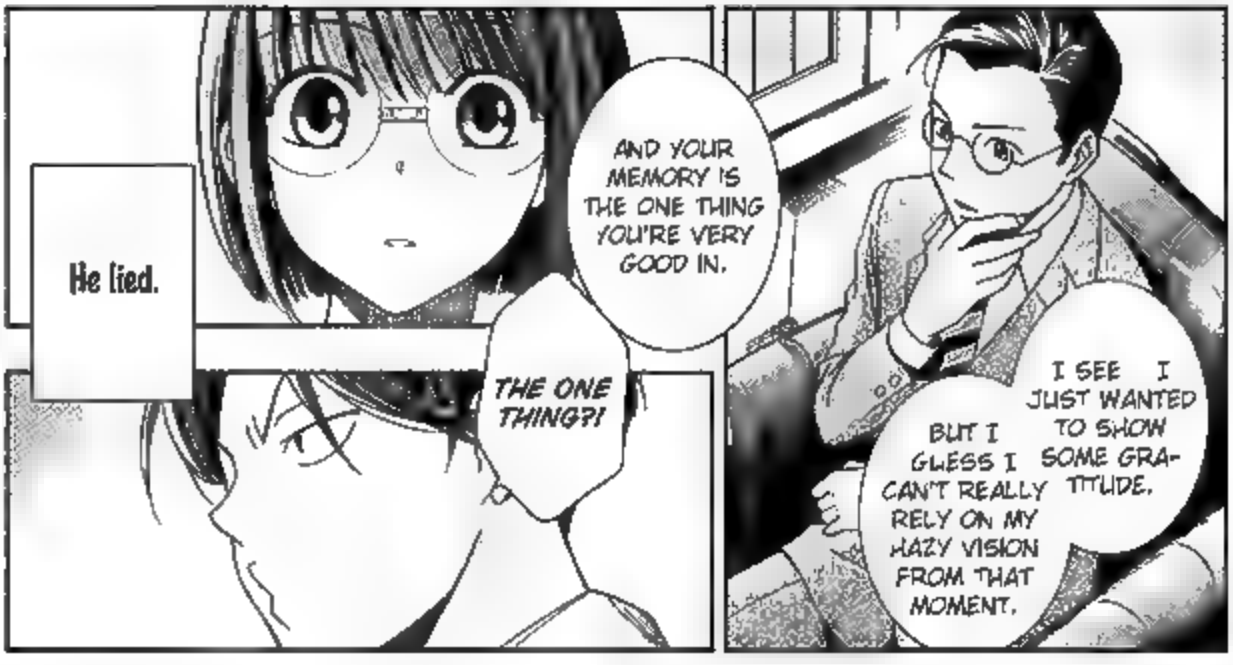
GUAAAAAHH—
HHHHHHHHHH
LATER
FETCH YOU SOME WATER FROM THE WELL
I GUESS I HAVE TO.
Here
W WATER
wieeze
wieeze
SLIP
You're sure a weakling
HIGH IMMUNITY
I DO IT ALL THE TIME!
WHY IS THIS NOT AFFECTING YOU?!
げれげれ
HANG ON
LET'S LOOSEN YOUR COLLAR.
Looking at Matsuba Botan's beautiful kimono,

I lost consciousness.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SOUMA?
THE NAME SOUNDS STRANGE, AND THE PICTURE ISN'T VERY CLEAR, BUT I THINK IT'S HER
This man tried to kill me.
WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS ALREADY IN THE HOSPITAL.
I WAS THE ONE WHO CARRIED YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL!!

IT'S NOT HER.

IT'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WOMAN.


He lied.
AND YOUR MEMORY IS THE ONE THING YOU'RE VERY GOOD IN.
THE ONE THING?!
I SEE I JUST WANTED TO SHOW SOME GRATITUDE.
BUT I GUESS I CAN'T REALLY RELY ON MY HAZY VISION FROM THAT MOMENT.

Why?
URABE-KUN
I'LL SHOW YOU OUT.
I JUST CAME HERE ON MY BREAK. I HAVE TO GET BACK NOW.
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

SO I WANT TO THANK YOU ON HIS BEHALF.
AH, NO TH, ... THANK YOU TOO
SFX BOW
HE'S MY OLDEST FRIEND.
I KNOW IT MAY BE HARD TO WORK UNDER SOUMA,
BUT I'M GLAD HE HAS SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO HELP OUT
Why

Here you go
And if that was a lie,
then it means that woman in the picture really is Matsubara Botan.
would you lie
to your oldest friend?

KANOKO, CAN I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?
I'M GOING TO CLEAN THESE UP
AH, YES?
He knows that I heard that lie, doesn't he?
WHAT?
NOTHING ..
It's not something anyone wants to hear.
But he's not saying anything about it...
GIVE THIS TO THAT SHOP-KEEPER.
OKAY.
YES
DO YOU REMEMBER THE SECOND-HAND SHOP?
That's possible He even used t as a wrapper
It's just Kaoru
It's fine, it's fine It'll be too much of a hassle
"Why did you lie?"
I'M GOING.
I can't ask him about it.

He said he was fine being around me.

"I'm okay with it."

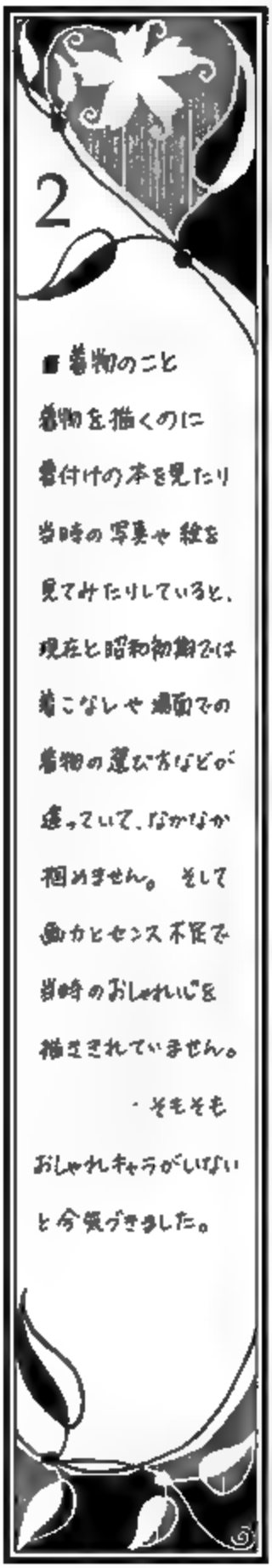
I don't want him to hate me.

SFX SCREAM
I can go and check it out myself!!
ARTI-CLE?
THE RESTAU-RANT IN THIS AR-TICLE, DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
that's right!!
UM!!
I can find out if it really is Matsuba Botan.
THIS IS...
This has nothing to do with Iwai-san's lie. I can find this out for myself and inform Hanasaki-san.
And,
maybe I'll understand why he lied.

sneak
What should I do?
Can I just go in?
sneak

Th...
This is one fancy restaurant...

SFX FWIP
Someone's there!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■着物のこと
着物を描くのに
着付けの本を見たり
当時の写真や絵を
見てみたりしていると、
現在と昭和初期とは
着こなしや場面での
着物の選び方などが
違っていて、なかなか
掴めません。そして
色カセンス不足で
当時のおしゃれ心を
描きされていません。
・そもそも
おしゃれキャラがいない
と今気づきました。

That woman!!
She's the one from the picture.

I can just ask her.
"Did you look after a man last month who had food poisoning?"
If I ask her...
SFX TAP

I lied again.
I pretended that I didn't notice the detective's lie.
And now I'm going behind his back to tell Hanasaki-san about this woman.
Am I really going to do this?
Is this,
how I'm always going to be?
Nothing has changed.
I'm still pretending that I can't hear lies.
"It was just a hunch."
Even after he,
accepted me as I am.
YOU WANT TO CHECK MY ABILITY?

Shoujo Sense

SFX: CLOSE
AS LONG AS YOU CAN HEAR THEIR VOICE.
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU CAN'T SEE THE PERSON.
Just try, brother!
I'm getting sadder and sadder
LIES.
WOW, THERE'S SO MUCH MONEY IN HERE!!
ぱたん
STAY THERE OKAY?
LET'S GO DEEPER.
OKAY THEN.
IT WILL NOT RAIN TOMORROW.
THAT'S NOT A LIE.
IT WILL RAIN TOMORROW.
NEXT,

SO YOU CAN'T DEDUCE THE TRUTH FROM SOMETHING THAT'S STILL UNKNOWN.
I SEE.
AH
THAT'S
ALSO NOT A LIE.
CAUSE WE DON'T KNOW YET WHICH OF THOSE,
S GOING TO BE A LIE
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE THINKING.
Hmph!
THAT MEANS WE CAN'T USE YOUR POWERS TO GET RICH FROM GAMBLING
HOW ABOUT THIS?
IT WILL RAIN
TOMORROW.

SFX: CLATTER
I WOULDN'T KNOW THE WEATHER TOMORROW
OR THE WEATHER 1000 YEARS FROM NOW.
BUT THE DIFFERENCE IS,
HOW?! YOU JUST SAID THE SAME THING!
AND IT'S SOMETHING UNKNOWN!
YEAH.
LIE!!
THAT'S A LIE!!
I TOLD MYSELF THAT IT'S GOING TO BE SUNNY TOMORROW.
WHICH MEANS THAT I WAS AWARE THAT I WAS LYING.
IN THE NEXT ONE, I HAD AN ACTUAL OPINION.
YOUR AWARENESS?
MY AWARENESS
IN THAT FIRST INSTANCE, I WAS JUST CHOOSING FROM TWO CHOICES IT'S GOING TO RAIN OR IT'S NOT GOING TO RAIN
?
?
YOUR POWER CAN'T UNCOVER HIDDEN TRUTHS
WHAT IT CAN DO IS DETECT INTENDED LIES.

And no one has ever explained it like that before.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP THAT IN MIND AS THE DETEC-TIVE'S AS-SISTANT!
I have never thought about my ability like that before.
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HEAR IT AS A LIE.
IF THE PERSON IS PLAIN WRONG, OR JUST MAKING ASSUMP-TIONS,
SO IN OTHER WORDS
...DETEC-TIVE...

SFX BUMP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ばっ
!!
D, DETEC-TIVE?
!!!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHECK IT OUT?
YOU CAME HERE
TO ASK HER,
IF SHE WAS THE ONE WHO HELPED KAORU, DIDN'T YOU?

So I have to be honest with him too.
He was the one who didn't mind being around me.
DETEC-TIVE
even know-ing that I can hear every lie.
I want to
ask him.
WHY DID YOU LIE AND SAY SHE WASN'T THE WOMAN IN THE PICTURE?

Hch
THAT'S HER!!
THE SHOP-KEEPER FROM THE SECOND-HAND SHOP?!
TH
SHE'S THE ONE WHO STOLE MY WALLET!!
OFFICER, IT'S THAT WOMAN!!

Huh?

Please calm down
IT'S HER! IT'S THAT WOMAN!!
YOU FILTHY THIEF!!
I REALLY...
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
A lie!!
DETECTIVE, SHE'S LYING!
SHE STOLE IT..!!

I REMEMBER YOU!!
I FOUND YOU FROM THIS!
Eh?
The article.
YOU PRETENDED TO HELP ME WHEN I WAS DRUNK THEN STOLE MY WALLET!
A thief pretending to be a good Samaritan
YES, SHE DID.
EVERYONE CAN REMEMBER A PRETTY WOMAN
WE WOULD NEED TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS
Does this mean
IT'S ALREADY LATE AND I'M HUNGRY
LET'S GO
COME ON, THE POLICE WILL HANDLE IT FROM HERE

he knew about it from the beginning...?

THAT TIME...
"Hang on."
she tried to steal the wallet from Kaoru.
I think she realized that I saw her, so she didn't go through with it, then walked away.
SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENED TO THE SHOPKEEPER OF THAT SECOND-HAND SHOP, RIGHT AT THE SAME PLACE.
SO I WAS THINKING THAT IT COULD BE THE SAME WOMAN.
I see.
She helped me out.
AND IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT HE REMEMBERED WHAT THAT WOMAN LOOKED LIKE.
So he gave that article to him on purpose...?
SO THE REASON YOU LIED TO HANASAKI-SAN AND TOLD HIM YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT WOMAN...

SFX ROLL
HE COULDN'T REMEMBER HER FACE.
AND HE NEVER KNEW THAT SHE WAS TRYING TO STEAL FROM HIM
WELL.
HE WASN'T IN ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER.
KAORU S A SMPLE MAN
THERE'S NO REASON TO DRAG HIM INTO THIS AND DISAPPOINT HIM.
He really is
"He's my oldest friend."
SO YOU LIED FOR HIS SAKE.
a friend.

You lied for me?
IT WASN'T REALLY KAORU I LIED FOR.
SFX TWIRL
THAT'S PART OF IT, BUT
HMMMM...
"Do you know where the restaurant in this article is located?"
WHEN YOU SHOWED THAT ARTICLE TO THE SHOPKEEPER,
THAT WAS THE BEST!! SO WELL DONE!!
No way.
SFX FFFFT!
YOU WERE SO BOTHERED ABOUT ME LYING TO KAORU, WEREN'T YOU?
pfft
!!?
SO YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME THE WHOLE TIME.
WHEN YOU COULD HAVE JUST ASKED ME ABOUT IT DIRECTLY
YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE RESTAURANT,
He went to the restaurant.

SFX: ROLL
What the hell is with this guy...
BUT WERE YOU WORRYING ABOUT WHAT MY INTENTIONS WERE, I WONDER?
YOU CAN DETECT LIES,
DID YOU LIE IN FRONT OF ME ON PURPOSE
JUST TO SEE WHAT I WOULD DO...?
YEP.
SFX: WAHAHAHAHAHA
I was so worried for nothing...
I don't understand.
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO...
YOU FELL FOR IT AS SOON AS I THOUGHT ABOUT IT~~~
toink
toink
I
ふはははは
THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS HAVE AN HONEST TALK ABOUT IT.
WELL, I TOOK YOU IN TO WORK WITH ME,

I KNOW IT'S BEEN BOTHERING YOU.
THAT MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL HATE THE FACT
THAT YOU CAN HEAR ALL MY LIES.

This

Here.

This is

OKAY.

WE CAN WORRY ABOUT IT TOGETHER.

AND DEAL WITH IT TOGETHER.

was the reason he made me go through all that.

HEARING LIES IS CONVE-NIENT,

BUT I'M AWARE IT ALSO HAS ITS DOWN-SIDES.

YOU BEING ABLE TO HEAR MY LIES, AND ME HAVING MY LIES HEARD,

SOME-TIMES IT WOULD BE USE-FUL,

SOME-TIMES IT WOULD BE BOTHER-SOME.

BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS ALONE.

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANY-MORE.

anyone has ever confronted my ability head on.
the first time
I WILL!
DON'T YOU WANNA LOOK AT THE FULL MOON?
It's free, you know?
I want to
be able to help him too.